

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 739

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Hsiang-te Kung for meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. Hsiang-te Kung, who played an instrumental role in the establishment of a prestigious Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a descendant of the revered Confucius, Dr. Kung submitted a proposal to the Chinese Embassy and the Office of the Chinese Language Council International that resulted in the University of Memphis being chosen to house a Confucius Institute; and

WHEREAS, once the initiative is complete, the University of Memphis will be one of approximately 150 institutes worldwide hosting a Confucius Institute; and

WHEREAS, according to Dr. Kung, the Institute will accomplish a myriad of aims: better trade relations, greater understanding of the Chinese language and culture, friendly relations between the United States and China, an accelerated expansion of multiculturalism, and increased opportunities for students studying the Chinese language through courses and exchange programs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kung's immediate objectives for the Institute include recruiting students to major in Asian Studies, promoting research, establishing a library of Chinese literature, expanding the Chinese study abroad program, and reaching out to the community; and

WHEREAS, a native of China, Dr. Hsiang-te Kung grew up in Taiwan and came to the United States in 1969; he has served as a Professor of Geography at the University of Memphis since 1981; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kung epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. Kung for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Dr. Hsiang-te Kung for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, commend him upon his success in founding a Confucius Institute at the University of Memphis, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.